

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /077 W
----- 013730

R 141517Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 906

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF DA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER POSES NO OBJECTION TO POSSIBLE

PLO COPENHAGEN OFFICE

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE PLO APPARENTLY HAS NOT MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO OPEN AN OFFICE HERE, ONE CAN PROBABLY BE EXPECTED IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN HAS STATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBSTACLES TO ITS ESTABLISHMENT. ALTHOUGH THE PLO WOULD NOT FIND DENMARK A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT, THE DANES ARE SENSITIZED TO THE TERRORISTS IMAGE THAT THE ORGANIZATION PROJECTS. END SUMMARY

1. THE DANISH PRESS QUOTED PRIME MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN AS SAYING AT A MAY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE IN ABU DHABI THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PLACE ANY OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF A PLO WISH TO ESTABLISH AN INFOR-
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MATION OFFICE IN COPENHAGEN. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS,

ANDERSEN SAID THAT NO SPECIAL PERMISSION (PRESUMABLY FROM THE DANISH GOVERNMENT) WOULD BE REQUIRED TO OPEN SUCH AN OFFICE.

2. ANDERSEN'S STATEMENTS ECHOED THOSE MADE IN APRIL BY MFA'S THORNING-PETERSEN WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE. HE WAS COMMENTING ON A STATEMENT THAT AL FATAH'S AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO, RIHBI AWAD, MADE TO A DANISH JOURNALIST THAT THE PLO WAS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN COPENHAGEN. RIHBI AWAD REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE PLO WOULD "INVESTIGATE WHETHER THERE ARE CIRCLES OF RECOGNIZED PERSONS---WHO WOULD CREATE THE BACKGROUND FOR A DANISH REQUEST FOR A SEMI-DIPLOMATIC OFFICE". SUCH PERSONS "MIGHT ARRANGE AN INVITATION TO A GROUP OF AL FATAH MEMBERS TO LECTURE IN COPENHAGEN ON PALESTINE AND THE PLO". THORNING-PETERSEN COMMENTED THAT ANY FOREIGNER COULD SET UP AN INFORMATION OFFICE IN COPENHAGEN, WHICH WAS THE WAY NORTH KOREA, NORTH VIETNAM AND THE GDR FIRST ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES IN THIS COUNTRY.

3. ON MAY 12, THE LIBERAL PARTY DAILY VESTKYSTEN CARRIED A COMMENT ON ANDERSEN'S STATEMENT MADE BY THE LIBERAL PARTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, ARNE CHRISTIANSEN. CHRISTIANSEN SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION ANDERSEN SHOULD HAVE FOLLOWED THE LEAD OF FRG CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT. SCHMIDT APPARENTLY HAS SAID IN EFFECT THAT WEST EUROPEAN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE PLO SHOULD BE CONDITIONED ON THE ORGANIZATION'S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST BEHIND SAFE BORDERS, AND THE PLO ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM.

4. ACTING HEAD OF MFA'S OFFICE OF MID-EASTERN AFFAIRS, KLAUS KAPEL, TOLD POLCOUNS MAY 13 THAT NO FORMAL REQUEST EITHER FROM THE PLO OR FROM "A SERIOUS DANISH GROUP" HAS COME TO THE MFA'S ATTENTION BUT REITERATED THAT HE FORESAW NO PROBLEMS IN GRANTING A REQUEST TO OPEN AN INFORMATION OFFICE.

5. COMMENT: THE PLO WOULD NOT FIND DENMARK A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT ALTHOUGH THE RECENT ATTACK ON THE GERMAN EMBASSY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN STOCKHOLM HAS STRONGLY SENSITIZED THE DANES TO THE THREAT OF TERRORISM IN GENERAL. (IN THIS CONNECTION, MOST THOUGHTFUL PERSONS HERE DO NOT ACCEPT THE PLO'S PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF TERRORISM AS A MEANS TO POLITICAL ENDS.) A PLO ESTABLISHMENT IN COPENHAGEN WOULD RECEIVE THE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF THE SMALL, BUT VERY VISIBLE, LEFTIST GROUPS WHICH MOUNT FREQUENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN BEHALF OF THE EXPECTED CAUSES. THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS USUALLY HOSPITABLE TO SUCH "INFORMATION OFFICES"

AND PROBABLY ONE WILL FORMALLY OPEN ITS DOORS HERE IN THE
NEAR FUTURE.
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